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Kuri, Ramesh B. RK and o, Maranna OM, "INFRASTRUCTURAL ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT FIRST GRADE COLLEGE LIBRARIES OF RURAL AREAS: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MUMBAI KARNATAKA REGION" (2018). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 2125.

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INFRASTRUCTURAL ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT FIRST GRADE COLLEGE LIBRARIES OF RURAL AREAS: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MUMBAI KARNATAKA REGION

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Abstract:

The present study aims at analyzing the availability of infrastructure facilities in Government First Grade College (GFGC) libraries of Mumbai Karnataka region. This study trace out the status and issues related to the library building, availability of library space, furniture, and problems analyzed and interpreted. The Govt. first grade college libraries are worsened due to lack of funding and complete monitoring. Particularly in rural areas, the issue of infrastructure often poses a tremendous problem to many libraries and librarians.

Keywords: Library building, Library space, Library infrastructure, Library equipment, Rural areas.

1. Introduction:

The Government of Karnataka under the Department of Collegiate Education (DCE) has established several colleges to meet the higher educational needs of the rural areas. The students, who could not able to pursue their higher education by bearing the higher fees at private colleges of urban areas, such students can join Govt. colleges and pursue their education. Majority of the population living in rural areas have understood the importance of education and know that it is the only way to get rid of poverty. Therefore the students depend upon government colleges for his or her education. The libraries of such colleges are the great source of information and playing an important role in fulfilling the needs of rural students. To evaluate and understand the real situation, this article is carried out in finding out the

highlights the problems and prospects of GFGC libraries of rural areas in Mumbai Karnataka region. This study contains valuable insights and observations for making the college library in rural areas and information initiatives successful in the long run.

2. The significance of the Study

This study will bring to the limelight the strength and deficiencies in GFGC libraries of rural areas located in Mumbai Karnataka region, to provide effective and efficient library services. It is also envisaged that the study would help enhance infrastructure facility and recommendations are offered towards improving library services. It is to provide a useful framework of reference and serve as the springboard for a new approach for enhancing the infrastructure facility in the Govt. college libraries of the selected region. It also provides a policy framework for policymakers.

3. Review of Literature

(Kannappanavar, 2014) conducted a survey to evaluate library facilities, sources, and services in the engineering colleges in Goa state. The authors found the existed library staff strength, both professional and non-professional is highly inadequate to perform library services efficiently and effectively. Librarians are more experienced. (Kay, 1995) examined fifty-two public academic libraries in regard to their assignable study space policies to aid in writing a policy for the University's Cook Memorial Library. The study found that the number of carrels available was not sufficient to meet the requests for assignment. Although the demand was great, many libraries indicated that actual use was low, with carrels frequently unoccupied. A majority of carrels were assigned to faculty on a first-come, first served basis, with library personnel making the assignment. (Khoo, Rozaklis, Hall, & Kusunoki, 2016) analyzed a qualitative mixed-method study of students' perceptions of place and space in an academic library. Two surveys gathered data and results identified two distinct and contrasting models of place: a more traditional model based on individual study near stacks of books, and an emergent technologically-supported group study model. The study suggests, academic libraries should develop new metrics to measure library place and space in settings of technologically-supported group work. (Bandyopadhyay, 2015) surveyed to know the Availability of ICT infrastructure in the University Libraries of West Bengal. It is found, most of the libraries have the basic Infrastructure Facility, they would facilitate the introduction & use of IT in the libraries.

4. Objectives:

The study is intended to assess the following objectives:

- a) To assess library building and space available in GFGC College libraries of rural areas;
- b) To assess the level of satisfaction towards the library grants sanctioned from Govt. of Karnataka;
- c) To study the existing library infrastructure and equipment facilities available at GFGC libraries in rural areas of Mumbai Karnataka region and

- d) To suggest ways and means of the adoption of best practices to overcome the problems.

6. Scope and limitation:

The present study is confined to the focuses on the infrastructural issues in Govt. degree college libraries of rural areas in Mumbai Karnataka region. There are total 84 colleges lies in Mumbai Karnataka region, (Districts of Belagavi, Bagalkot, Bijapur, Dharwad Haveri and Gadag) out of which only 28 GFGC established in the rural areas to fulfill the higher educational needs of the rural students.

7. Methodology:

To accomplish the defined set of objectives, a survey was conducted through a well structured and precise questionnaire for the target population of librarians working in Government degree colleges located in rural areas of Mumbai Karnataka region. The random sampling approach was adopted and distributed the questionnaire through an email mode. The authors received 16 filled questionnaires from the sample of 28 librarians (75% male and 24% female) thus the response rate was 57.14 percent. When classified by the statues of colleges in the form of grants and NAAC accreditation, 8 colleges received 2(f) grants, 3 colleges received both 2(f) & 12(B) grants and there are 5 colleges which have not come under any status by UGC. Similarly, 8 colleges have undergone with NAAC Accreditation, in which 3 colleges received B+ and 6 colleges received B grades.

8. Results and Discussion

8.1 List of Colleges covered under the study

Table-1 indicates establishment years and palaces of the existence of GFGC in Mumbai Karnataka region. The highest number of GFGC under study have established in 2007. Followed by two GFGC each established in 2011 and 2014, there are three GFGC established 1990, 1993 & 1995 respectively. It is found that 90% of the GFGC under the study covered, have established 10 years ago.

Sl.No	Name of the college	District	Year of establishment
1	GFGC Nesargi	Belagavi	1988
2	GFGC Alnavar	Dharwad	1993
3	GFGC Ainapur	Belagavi	1995
4	GFGC Byadagi	Haveri	2007
5	GFGC Manki	Uttar Kannada	2007
6	GFGC Raibag	Belagavi	2007
7	GFGC Ramadurg	Belagavi	2007
8	GFGC Ankola	Uttar Kannada	2007
9	GFGC Badami	Bagalkote	2007

10	GFGC Lokapur	Bagalkote	2007
11	GFGC Navalgund	Dharwad	2007
12	GFGC Hulkoti	Gadag	2007
13	GFGC Sunakalbidari	Haveri	2011
14	GFGC K.K Koppa	Belagavi	2011
15	GFGC Zalaki	Bijapur	2014
16	GFGC Bidi	Belagavi	2014

Table 8.1 List of Colleges covered under the study

*GFGC-Government First Grade College

8.2 Library Membership

Table-2 reveals that as far as UG students are concerned in GFGC, majority 37.35% of the libraries have the strength of more than 300 membership followed by 12.5% each, range between the strength of 51-100, 101- 150, 151-200, 201-251 and 251-300. Whereas PG student's library membership is concerned 50% of libraries have the membership range between 51-100 and 251-300 respectively. Similarly, teaching and non-teaching staff is concerned majority 68.75% of libraries are membership strength of 51-100 and 5 GFGC 31.25% between the strength of 101-150.

Sl. No	Membership Range	UG %	PG %	Teaching & Non-teaching %
1	51-100	12.50	50.00	68.75
2	101-150	12.50	-	31.25
3	151-200	12.50	-	-
4	201-250	12.50	-	-
5	251-300	12.50	50.00	-
6	Above-300	37.35	-	-

Table 8.2 Library Membership

8.3 Availability of library staff

Table-3 depicts the availability of library staff and their working positions. Majority 11(87.50%) of colleges are having librarians with a permanent position whereas 18.75% college libraries are maintaining by the teacher as the In-charge librarian. Whereas, 18.75% libraries have support staff and working on permanent basis.

Sl. No	Staff Personnel	Permanent staff %	Temporary/In-charge librarians %
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1	Librarian	87.50	12.50
2	Library Assistant	NA	NA
3	Clerk	NA	NA
4	Attainder	18.75	NA

Table 8.3 Availability of library staff

8.4 Qualification of the working professionals

Table-4 indicated that 68.75% of librarians have educational qualification of MLISc & M.Phil followed by 18.75% are Ph.D. holders and the remaining 12.50% of the respondent has no professional qualification and managing the library as in charge librarian.

Sl.No	Qualification	Respondent %
1	MLISc & M.Phil	68.75
2	MLISc & Ph.D	18.75
3	Other qualifications (In-Charge librarians)	12.50

Table 8.4 Qualification of the working professionals

8.5 Source of Finances

The Govt. Degree College system in Karnataka operates by the Department of Collegiate Education (DCE) Government of Karnataka. (Kuri Ramesh, 2018) sources of finance are a very important ingredient for every library to run the system effectively. Table-5 & fig-i reveals sources of finance for the GFGC libraries. The State Government grant provided by DCE is the main source of finance for all 100% libraries. Along with this, 56.25% of the libraries receive SC & ST grants from state and central government to purchase books and other equipment exclusively for students who belongs SC &ST. 18.75% of college libraries come under 12b & 12F recognition, receive grants from UGC, New Delhi. Whereas, 31.25% libraries collect funds form gifts & donation, fine & late fees. And 6.25% of the libraries collect funds from library membership and sale of old newspapers.

Sl. No	Sources of Finance	Respondent %
1	State Govt. Grants	100.00
2	SC/ST Grants	56.25
3	Reading Room Fund	31.25
4	Gift and Donation	31.25

5	UGC Grants	18.75
6	Fine on late fees	12.50
7	Library membership fees	06.25
8	Sale of Old Newspapers	06.25

Table 8.5 Source of Finances

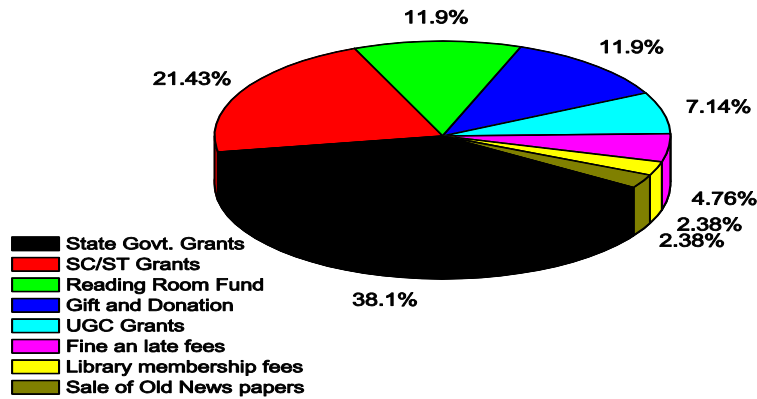


Fig-i Sources of Budget

8.6 Budget sanctioned in the last five years

Budget is the most important factor that determines the effectiveness of the library. Adequate funds are necessary to build good infrastructure facility and services (Vasishta, 2007). The question was asked to the librarian to know total budget sanctioned in the last five years. The Table-6 & Fig-ii, indicates that majority 43.75% of the libraries received grants Rs. 01 to 1, 00,000 lack in five years. Followed 25.00% libraries received 1to 2 rupees, 18.75% libraries received 2 to 3 lacks and only few i.e.12.50% of libraries receive more than Rs. 400000 in the last five years.

Sl. No	Budget sanctioned in last 5 years (Rs)	Respondent %
1	1 – 100000	43.75
2	100000 - 200000	25.00
3	200000 - 300000	18.75
4	300000 - 400000	-
5	> 400000	12.50

Table 8.6 Budget sanctioned in the last five years

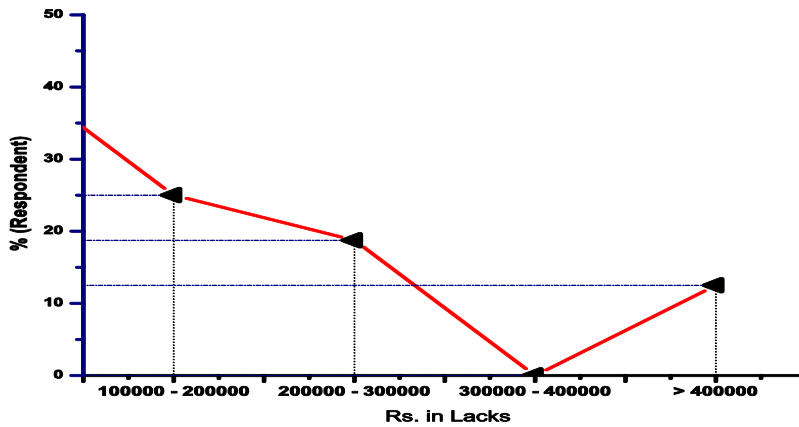


Fig-ii Budget sanctioned in the last 5 years

8.7 Adequacy of the Library budget

Table-7 & fig-iii clearly shows that adequacy of library budget sanctioned in five years. It is observed that 50% of the librarians expressed, the sanctioned budget in five years is not sufficient. Followed 30.50% expressed sufficient and 19.50% librarians expressed fully sufficient of the library budget.

Sl. No	Adequacy	No of the respondent (%)
1	Fully sufficient	18.75
2	Sufficient	31.25
3	Not sufficient	50.00

Table 8.7 Adequacy of the Library budget

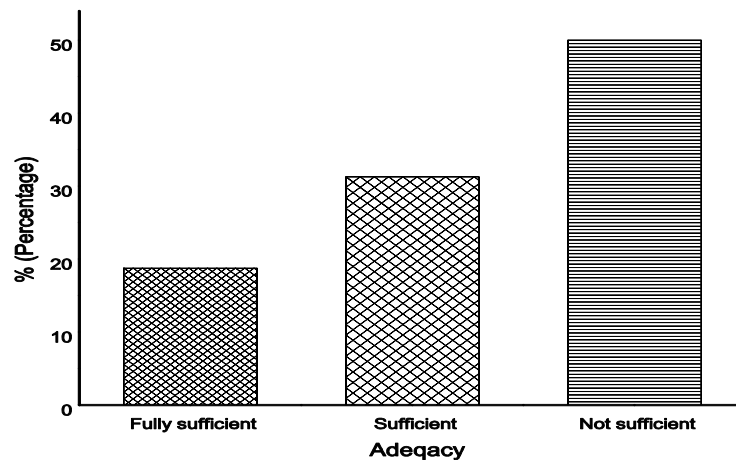


Fig-iii Adequacy of the library budget

8.8 Carpet area of the library in square feet

The question was asked to know about the availability of library space in government college libraries of the selected region. The table-8 reveals that majority 62.50% of librarians indicated their libraries lies in less than 1000 square feet areas. Followed by 25% of libraries lies in the range of 1000-2000 square feet and only 12.50% of the libraries have the space of more than 4000 sq.ft.

Sl. No	Carpet area of the library space in Sq/Ft.	Respondents %
1	Less than 1000	62.50
2	1000-2000	25.00
3	2000-3000	NA
4	3000-4000	NA
5	>4000	12.50

Table 8.8 Carpet area of the library in square feet

*NA=Not Available

8.9 Adequacy of availability of library space

Library building and space are important components for librarians to introduce effective and efficient library services. The table-9 indicates the adequacy of space available in libraries. Majority 56.25% of libraries opinioned, the existed space is not sufficient as per the library collection and users strength. Hence there is a need for an independent building for the libraries to exhibit their intellectual by introducing services and best practices.

Sl No	Adequacy of library space	Respondents %
1	Sufficient	06.25
2	Not sufficient	56.25
3	Timely manageable	37.50

Table 8.9 Adequacy of availability of library space

*NA=Not Available

8.10 Availability of Library furniture

Table-10 & fig-iv, indicates the adequacy of furniture's available in GFGC libraries. The question was asked to the librarian to know the adequacy of library furniture is sufficient as per their college strength. Majority 62.50% libraries expressed that, availability of books racks and new arrivals display racks and dictionary stands are not sufficient, whereas 18.75% of libraries expressed fully sufficient and partially sufficient. Similarly, maximum 62.50 & 43.75% of libraries expressed partial sufficient with the

availability of periodical display rack and book discharging desk respectively. Half of the libraries under study covered expressed fully sufficient with the study table and chairs available. It is surprised to know that the catalog cabinet dictionary/encyclopedias stand and book trolley do not exist in any of the libraries covered under the study.

Sl. No	Furniture's	Fully Sufficient %	Partially Sufficient %	Not Sufficient %
1	Book racks	18.75	18.75	62.50
2	Periodical Display Rack	18.75	62.50	18.75
3	New arrivals display rack	18.75	18.75	62.50
4	Study table	37.50	25.00	37.50
5	Chairs	37.50	25.00	37.50
6	Charging desk	18.75	43.75	37.50
7	Catalog cabinet	NA	NA	NA
8	Dictionary/Encyclopedia stands	NA	NA	NA
9	Book trolley	NA	NA	NA

Table 8.10 Availability of Library furniture

*NA=Not Available

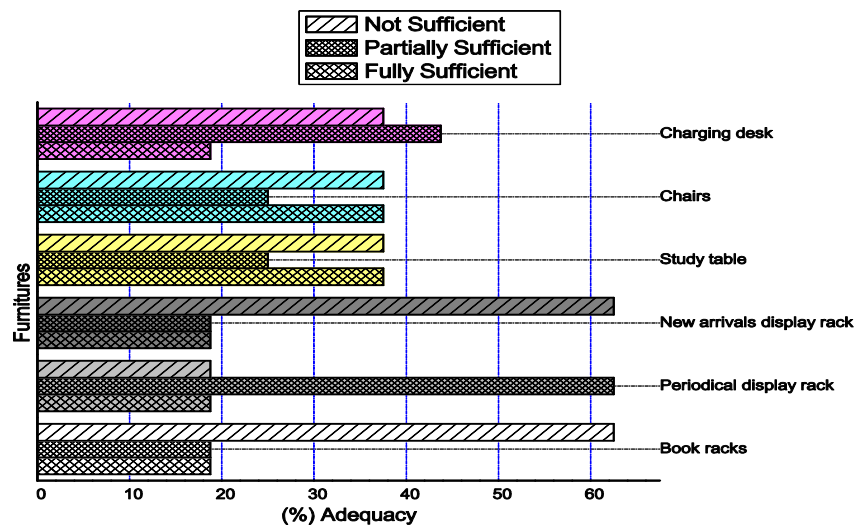


Fig-iv Adequacy of library furniture

8.11 Adequacy of library Equipment

Table-11 & fig-v, depicts adequacy of library equipment in the libraries of the selected colleges. Out of 16 colleges under study 25% of librarians expressed, fully sufficient with equipment of computers, UPS

and storage device, whereas 68.75% of the respondent expressed partially sufficient with audio-visual equipment and two of the libraries expressed not sufficient with printer and scanner equipment. The study also reveals none of the colleges are having equipment of Xerox, typewriter and television equipment.

Sl. No	Equipment	Fully Sufficient %	Partially sufficient %	Not Sufficient %
1	Computers	43.75	31.25	25.00
2	UPS	43.75	31.25	25.00
3	Storage devices	43.75	37.50	18.75
4	Printers	31.25	31.25	37.50
5	Scanner	25.00	31.25	50.00
6	LED Projector	56.25	18.75	25.00
7	Audio/Visuals equip	18.75	68.75	12.50
8	Xerox	NA	NA	NA
9	Typewriters	NA	NA	NA
10	Television	NA	NA	NA

Table 8.11 Adequacy of library Equipment

*NA=Not Available

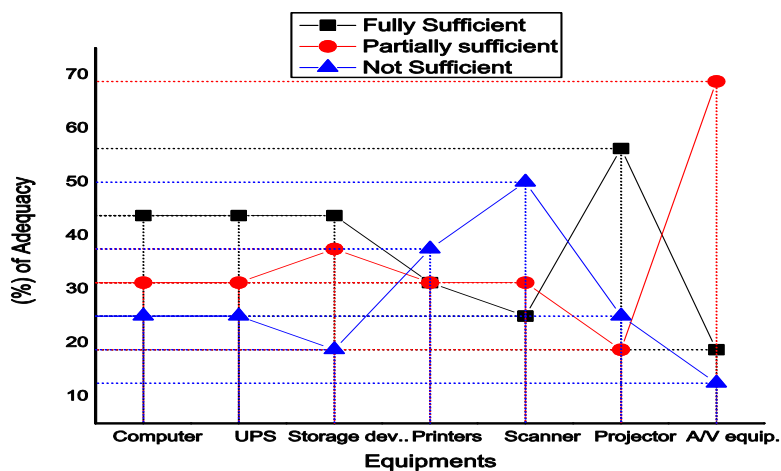


Fig-v Adequacy of library equipment

8. Findings and Suggestions

1. Half of the respondent colleges are the having 2f accreditation from the UGC and half of the surveyed colleges undergone NAAC accreditation with a grade of 'B' and One-third of the colleges offering both Arts and Commerce.
2. A Good number of colleges have more than 300 of student's strength and less number of the staff member are available. Hence, this indicates that "Most of the government colleges of rural arias in

Mumbai Karnataka region of Karnataka state are good at strength but no actual strength as per the strength of the colleges. (Table-2)

3. More than 80% of the libraries under-surveyed have full-time librarians and have MLISC and M.Phil qualification. (Table-4&5)
4. 100% Government Degree College libraries under study receive a grant from state government followed 56.25% SC ST grants, 31.25% each Reading Room Fund and Gift and Donation and 18% from UGC grants. Hence, this indicates that "All the government degree colleges of rural areas are running by the state government grants. (Table-5)
5. 43.75% of the college libraries received Less than One lakh of grants in the last 5 years and (Table 8) 50% of the librarians expressed that the sectioned budget is not sufficient. (Table-6 & 7)
6. More than half the college libraries under study have less than 1000 sq.ft. is the total carpet areas of the libraries and the librarians expressed the existed library space is not sufficient as per their strength and collection in concern. (Table-8 & 9)
7. 62% of the libraries expressed not sufficient with their library furniture such as book racks, new arrivals display rack. Similarly, the majority of libraries opinioned partially sufficient with periodical display and the charging desk. It is important to know that almost all the libraries not having any furniture's such as catalog cabinet dictionary/encyclopedia stand and book trolley. (Table-10)
8. 43% of the librarians opinioned that fully sufficient with equipment like computers, UPS and Storage Devices. (Table-11)

9. Recommendations

The recommendations are drawn out of the data collection, analysis and the interpretations of the study. The following recommendations need to be considered in the yoga-science libraries to serve the users better.

1. It is observed that the Government Degree college libraries of rural areas in Mumbai Karnataka region do not have sufficient library space and budget to run the library system effectively and efficiently.
2. The study recommends the Provision of sufficient space (independent building) sufficient budget is inevitable; hence the government of Karnataka should take into consideration the issues related to those colleges for the development of these libraries.
3. There is a lack of Infrastructure facilities like library furniture and, therefore, the librarians should analyze the requirement of the gap and send the proposal to the government in fulfillment of infrastructure facilities.

4. As per the fifth law library science, every year there will be a continuous increase of collection and other materials that are going into add in the library. Hence there should be sufficient space to accommodate newly added materials into the library.
5. The Govt. of Karnataka should release sufficient financial benefits to the GFGC college libraries to increase sufficient library infrastructure and equipment.

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